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mixture of unwholesome ailments, but we must consider all the conditions of community life,—physical, emotional, economic, aesthetic, ethical and religious. Social service in its broadest terms is the scientific application of all our experience and knowledge, and at times when we have no basis except a guess upon which to place our theories, even a guess may be of value. In no field of endeavor is social service so necessary as in the control of venereal disease, and the nurse in assisting in the solution of these problems must be inspired with idealism and great principles, for in many instances the nurse gets closer to the patient than does the physician. She will need then to be four-square, and must not only be educated herself, but she must be able to diffuse this knowledge to her patients, associates, and to physicians who have failed to grasp the true meaning of social service. Out of such a broad opportunity will come a new social order, human interests will be cemented, superstition and ignorance will be overcome, and a future of public comprehension and response will be assured.

To accomplish all of this the nurse will need more time for mental leisure to study, to think, and to pray; more conservation of will-power to gather strength and energy for meeting the serious needs of life. After all is said and done, the physician can diagnose and treat the disease, but the coördination of treatment of the disease and treatment of the patient must go hand in hand and the nurse is the logical person to humanize the social service.

EXPERIENCE, THAT DEAR TEACHER

BY LUELLA M. ERION

THE little country school was up a limestone hill, and the little coupe had to almost climb stairs to reach it, but it was necessary to risk the tires because a case of diphtheria had appeared among the pupils. Throat swabs were taken from all the twenty-one pupils, and five of them (having had diphtheria during the previous winter) turned out to be carriers. Two little boys in one tenant-farmer's home were among the number. The health officer and the local doctor urged immunization by anti-toxin, but the father could not understand. "No," he finally decided, "I ain't a-goin' to have no see-rum of no kind shot into my chaps. They ain't sick and it ain't sensible to make them sick." The mother also said she "didn't believe in no such." So the boys were excluded from school. The other three carriers were immunized, after much explanation and argument, and the little school was not closed. The country doctor who tried so faithfully to assist the health officer and the nurse in preventing disease was rather hurt that the family for which he had done much unre-

munerated work should not accept his recommendation that the boys be made safe from diphtheria, but he had learned that ignorance is sometimes impossible to combat. The little boys were out of school, and they rather fancied that, while the parents thought it most unreasonable to keep them out when they were not sick. "They wasn't no more exposed to diphthery than the other chaps was," was their argument. "That there health officer is curious. They ain't no sense to such doin's."

About ten days later a sad and red-eyed man, leading two forlorn little boys, came sheepishly to the office of the local doctor. "Doc," said he, "my baby hit died last night. Hit died afore we rightly knew hit was much sick. Hit choked to death, Doc, and we air sure hit had diphthery. I reckon that health officer knew what he was talkin' about when he said these two boys was carriers. Please, Doc, fix my boys so they won't take diphthery. We done lost one of our children and we don't want to lose no more. Doc, we ain't got much education, but me an' my wife air a-learnin' from experience. But hit's a dear teacher, Doc, hit's a dear teacher."

ITEMS

THE National Health Council has issued its sixth report on Federal Health Activities. This latest report on The Health Section of the U. S. Bureau of Indian Affairs is of perhaps special interest. A brief account is given of the history and development of the Bureau which was established in the War Department in 1824, and in 1849 transferred to the Department of the Interior. No organized effort, however, to deal with the health of the Indians was made until 1873, when a division of medicine and education was established. This division was later discontinued and not revised until 1909. Recent statistics show that the Indian race, which a few years ago was believed to be dying is now a living race. The annual birth rate exceeds the annual death rate and individuals live out the normal expectancy of life. The first hospital for Indians was established in 1882; there are now 73. Among the present personnel of the Health Section, we note six traveling nurses and 100 Agency and School nurses. Six Field Dentists are also attached to the Section, together with 91 Field Matrons.

THE Vocational Department of the N. O. P. H. N. now reestablished, has prepared a small poster for the Bulletin Board of Training Schools, and Nurses' Clubs. Numbers have already been sent out and the N. O. P. H. N. will be glad to have requests for these posters.

CAN YOU ANSWER THESE RECENT STATE BOARD QUESTIONS?

Outline a day's dietary for a child four years of age. In what ways may private duty nurses act as educators? What is the difference between a trade and a profession?